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To: Editor in Chief Newsroom

U.S. Embassy in Skopje - Statement on the Violent Incidents of March 7, 2012

We are aware of the violent incidents which took place last evening that resulted in injuries to a number of young people. Our sympathy and wishes for a speedy recovery go to those who were hurt and to their families.

We understand that authorities are investigating the incident and seeking the perpetrators of these callous acts. We support the efforts of Interior Minister Jankulovska to pursue the investigation and legal proceedings. We echo her condemnation of the actions, and her comments that the ethnic background of any victim is irrelevant to the legal process.

We call on all parties concerned to remain calm, to wait for the facts of the case to be made known, and to allow the legal process to take its course.